

Stanislaus County

Planning and Community Development

1010 10th Street, Suite 3400
Modesto, CA 95354

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STANISLAUS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REFERRAL

June 25, 2004

TO:

Agricultural Commissioner-Steve Logan	Chief Executive Office-Keth Boggs
The Alliance-Bill Bassitt	CalTrans-Tom Dumas
Consolidated Fire Protection-Shirley Koelmans	Cooperative Extension
County Counsel-Jack Doering	Development Services-Ron Cherrier
Department of Environmental Res.-Nicole Damin	StanCOG
Department of Environmental Res.-Bella Badal	Parks Department-Marty Johnson
Natural Resources Conservation-Michael McElhiney	Valley Air District-John Cadrett
Sheriff (ATTN: Lt. Doug Leo, STARS)	Community Services Agency
Hazardous Materials-Jim Simpson	Public Works Transportation-Brad Christian
	Chief Executive Office-Raul Mendez

FROM: Department of Planning and Community Development - Bob Kachel

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRAL - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - BUREAU OF RECLAMATION - WATER TRANSFER PROGRAM FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS DRAFT EIS/EIR AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Stanislaus County has established an Environmental Review Committee, which consists of representatives of the Departments of Public Works, Planning and Community Development, Environmental Resources, Fire Safety, County Counsel, and the Chief Executive Office. The ERC meets every other Wednesday at 9:30 AM in the Planning Department Conference Room at 1010 10th Street, Modesto. The primary purpose of the ERC is to provide a unified County review and response to environmental issues associated with projects which are referred to the County. The Planning Department has been designated as the County Agency responsible for coordinating the review process. This referral may also be forwarded to you as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process.

Each agency should review the projects from the point of view of impacts on its own areas of responsibility. Please be as specific as possible in the expected degree of impacts including costs of providing services and possible methods of mitigating the impacts to acceptable levels including mitigation fees. Please complete the attached response form or provide a written response within 2 weeks.

The California Environmental Quality Act establishes very tight time frames for review. For that reason it is very important that a prompt response be provided. It is our hope that all County responses can be sent to the referring agencies as a package. However, in some instances the time for review does not permit that to happen. Some responses will have to go directly to the agency, with a copy to County Planning, while others can come back to Planning. Please note below the date responses are needed and where to send them. PLEASE SEND THE ORIGINAL OF ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE DIRECTLY TO THE AGENCY LISTED BELOW AND A COPY TO THE STANISLAUS COUNTY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT. Please contact me if you have any questions.

PROJECT AGENCY
U.S. Dept of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA 95825

RESPOND TO
Bob Eckart
Att: MP 150
(916) 978-5051

RESPONSE DATE
August 2, 2004

**STANISLAUS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
REFERRAL RESPONSE FORM**

TO: Stanislaus County Planning & Community Development
1010 10th Street, Suite 3400
Modesto, CA 95354

FROM: _____

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRAL - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION - WATER TRANSFER PROGRAM FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS DRAFT EIS/EIR AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Based on this agencies particular field(s) of expertise, it is our position the above described project:

- ☐ Will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- ☐ May have a significant effect on the environment.
- ☐ No Comments.

Listed below are specific impacts which support our determination (e.g., traffic general, carrying capacity, soil types, air quality, etc.) - (attach additional sheet if necessary)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Listed below are possible mitigation measures for the above-listed impacts:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

In addition, our agency has the following comments (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Response prepared by:

Name	Title	Date
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cc: Debbie Whitmore, Angela Freitas, Sara Lytle-Pinhey

SENT TO LOR! BLAIR-HARVEY TO BE DISTRIBUTED VIA EMAIL

News Release

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

KIRK ✓ FYI TO ERG
RM 6/23/04

Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, CA

MP-04-047

Media Contact: Jeffrey S. McCracken, 916-978-5100
jmccracken@mp.usbr.gov

For Immediate Release: June 16, 2004

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2004

STANISLAUS CO. PLANNING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.

WATER TRANSFER PROGRAM FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER EXCHANGE CONTRACTORS DRAFT EIS/EIR AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Bureau of Reclamation, the lead Federal agency, and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), the State lead agency, have released for public review a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), "The San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority 2005-2014," a 10-year water transfer program. The 45-day public comment period begins on Friday, June 18, 2004.

The Draft EIS/EIR evaluates the transfer of up to 130,000 acre-feet of substitute water (maximum of 80,000 acre-feet of developed water and a maximum of 50,000 acre-feet from land fallowing/crop idling) from the Exchange Contractors to other Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors, to Reclamation for delivery to the San Joaquin Valley wetland habitat areas (wildlife refuges) and Department of Water Resources for use by the CALFED Environmental Water Account as replacement water for CVP contractors. Reclamation would approve and/or execute short-term and/or long-term temporary water transfers or agreements.

A public hearing on the Draft EIS/EIR will be held on Wednesday, July 7, 2004, 5-7 p.m., Miller and Lux Building, 830 Sixth Street, Los Banos, California 93635.

Written comments must be received by close of business on Monday, August 2, 2004. Please mail comments to: Bureau of Reclamation, Attn: MP-150, Bob Eckart, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825. Comments may also be faxed to 916-978-5055 or e-mailed to REckart@mp.usbr.gov. The Draft EIS/EIR is available on Reclamation's web site at www.usbr.gov/mp. To request a hard copy or CD of the Draft EIS/EIR, please contact Joann Toscano, Exchange Contractors, at 209-827-8616. For further information, contact Bob Eckart at 916-978-5051.

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation